

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

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R 230935Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9689

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC/POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

1. OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) AUGUST 22
FORMED COMMITTEE OF NINE ASSEMBLYMEN TO INVESTIGATE
KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE AND COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN
KIM SU-HAN MADE STATEMENT AUGUST 23. NEWSPAPERS
REPORTED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) NDP REGRETS THAT CULPRITS STILL NOT APPREHENDED
AND URGES THAT THE TRUTH, NO MATTER WHAT, BE
BROUGHT TO LIGHT IN VERY NEAR FUTURE IN CONSIDERATION
OF INTERNATIONAL NATURE OF THE INCIDENT.

(B) NDP WONDERS HOW GOVERNMENT CAN ASSUAGE
PEOPLE'S CONCERN OVER INEFFECTIVENESS OF ROK'S
COASTAL DEFENSES.

(C) NDP URGES GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE CARE NOT
TO DAMAGE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN KOREA AND
JAPAN OR OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF
THIS CASE.

2. RADIO NEWS REPORTED AT LENGTH STATEMENT IN
TOKYO BY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER OF
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JAPANESE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY CONCERNING

RECENT VISIT TO SEOUL BY DSP DELEGATION. ACCOUNT EMPHASIZED GROUP'S ALLEGED IMPRESSIONS THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG APPEARED SOMEHOW TO HAVE COOPERATED IN KIDNAPPING AND THAT YANG IL-DONG MAY HAVE HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

3. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF KOREA/JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING WAS NOT RAISED IN NEWSPAPERS, BUT ONE RADIO REPORT QUOTED ASAHI SHIMBUN STORY THAT MEETING WOULD BE POSTPONED EITHER UNTIL LATE OCTOBER OR UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

4. NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO PLAYED UP DELIVERY OF FIRST ROKG REPORT ON KIM TAE-CHUNG INVESTIGATION TO JAPANESE EMBASSY IN SEOUL. SUBJECT MATTER WAS SAID TO BE ROKG EFFORTS TO CHECK SHIPS IN PORT FROM KOBE/OSAKA AND KIM'S BLOOD TYPE, WHICH IS A.

5. COMMENT: NDP STATEMENT OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO AVOID ANTAGONIZING GOVERNMENT AND AT SAME TIME TO SHOW SOME PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE CASE.

6. ONE GOVERNMENT APPROACH AGAIN SURFACING IS ATTEMPT TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG MIGHT POSSIBLY BE INVOLVED IN HIS OWN ABDUCTION. THIS IS LINE PRIMIN KIM TOOK WITH VISITING JAPANESE DSP LEADER KASUGA. WE SUSPECT NDP LEADERS INCLUDING YU CHIN-SAN WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN READY TO ENDORSE THAT VIEW WITH JAPANESE DSP VISITORS IF SO SIGNALLED BY ROKG. REPORTER PRESENT AT NDP PRESS BRIEFING REPORTED ABOVE OVERHEARD YU TO WHISPER "BE SURE TO MENTION KIM'S SUSPICIOUS ACTIONS."
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